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Story and photos by

8th Theater Sustainment Command Public Affairs

“What we’re doing here prepares you as a supervisor to go out and be competent and know that you can



handle situations if they arise in remote locations,” said Sgt. Thomas Behar, a 2nd class diver and lead diver. “It gets you thinking about the things that you need to be concerned with as a supervisor when you’re in those

“Our divers need to be able to operate in the most austere environments in the world,” Masters said. “Although we are a small detachment, our impact in the Indo-Asia-Pacific Theater is profound.”

Story and photos by

8th Theater Sustainment Command Public Affairs


There was a formal homecoming ceremony on Valentine's Day on Hamilton Field, Schofield Barracks.



**Family members and command teams from the 84th Engineers gather at Hamilton Field, Schofield, to welcome home Soldiers from the 523rd Eng. Spt. Co. to Hawaii from their nine-month deployment in Korea.**



Army Public Health Center  
Public Affairs Office

Visit U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii at <https://www.garrison.hawaii.army.mil/> to review the local Hawaii guide. It's midway down the homepage. 







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Eric Hamilton, 808-969-2402

# Sec. of Defense issues budget guidance

**JIM GARAMONE**  
DoD News, Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Jim Mattis issued budget directives at the start of the month aimed at addressing shortfalls in the department and building a more lethal joint force.

The budget directives have a quick trigger, with the first request — for an amendment to the fiscal year 2017 budget — due to the Office of Management and Budget by March 1. The budget request for fiscal 2018 is due May 1.

Mattis listed three goals: to improve warfighting readiness, to achieve program balance by addressing shortfalls and to build “a larger, more capable, and more lethal joint force.”

**Launches strategy effort**

The guidance also launches the effort to devise the 2018 National Defense Strategy.

DoD is currently operating under a continuing resolution, which freezes spending at fiscal 2016 levels. Mattis’s guidance is aimed at strengthening the armed forces and making the nation more secure, Pentagon spokesman Navy Capt. Jeff Davis said.

“The secretary is committed to achieving maximum value from every taxpayer dollar spent on defense,” Davis said. “This process reforms our budget process to improve warfighting readiness, fills pressing shortfalls and builds a larger and more lethal force while taking care of our service members and their families.”

Deputy Defense Secretary Bob Work will manage the review processes for the March and May submissions.

**2017 amendment**

The immediate priority is the 2017 budget amendment. Mattis said in his memo that the amendment will address “urgent warfighting readiness shortfalls across the joint force” and new requirements that may be needed as the campaign against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant accelerates.



DoD photo by Sgt. Amber I. Smith  
**Defense Secretary Jim Mattis answers questions from reporters during a flight to South Korea, Feb. 1.**

The Obama administration prepared the 2017 submission, and the amendment is the Trump administration’s chance to put in its priorities. The budget request was for \$582.7 billion. Congress has not passed the budget.

“The amendment may increase force structure in critical areas where doing so would have an immediate impact,” Mattis wrote.

It also will contain a provision for DoD to shift funds from lower-priority programs. Mattis wrote that he anticipates a net increase over the 2017 topline budget request the previous administration put forward.

**Rebuilding readiness**

The fiscal 2018 budget will continue efforts to balance the department, address programmatic shortfalls and rebuild readiness. The budget request — again drawn up in part by the previous administration — will examine buying more critical munitions, funding facilities sustainment at a higher rate, building programs for promising advanced capability demonstrations,

investing in critical enablers and growing force structure at the maximum responsible rate.

There is no mention in the document about sequestration, a provision of the Budget Control Act of 2011 that imposes across-the-board spending cuts if Congress and the White House cannot agree on more targeted cuts aimed at reducing the budget deficit. President Donald J. Trump has pledged to work with Congress to repeal that law.

The 2018 National Defense Strategy will contain a new force-sizing construct that will inform targets for force structure growth, Mattis wrote.

“It will also determine an approach to enhancing the lethality of the joint force against high-end competitors and the effectiveness of our military against a broad spectrum of potential threats,” he added.

All of this must happen as the department looks to ways to spend taxpayers’ money more wisely and effectively, the secretary said.

# Troops to be trained on retirement changes

**LISA FERDINANDO**  
DoD News, Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON — The Defense Department has launched mandatory training for eligible service members about their options under the “Blended Retirement System” nearly a year before that new system goes into effect on Jan. 1, 2018, Defense Department officials said.

The new military retirement system is “one of the most significant changes to military pay and benefits that we’ve had over the past 70 years,” said Anthony Kurta, who is performing the duties of undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness.

It is important for eligible service members to know their options under the legacy, the new systems, to choose the retirement plan that works best for them and their families, Kurta told Pentagon reporters.

“We’ll now be able to offer to 85 percent of our force a portable government retirement savings while still maintaining a traditional pension for those that serve at least 20 years,” he said.

**Key step in modernizing**

The new system, he said, is a key step in modernizing the military’s ability to recruit, retain and maintain the best talent for the future force, he said, noting the changes bring the military in line with similar private-sector retirement plans and provide more options for service members.

The changes to the military retirement system are authorized in the fiscal year 2016 National Defense Authorization Act, said Andrew Corso, the assistant director of military compensation policy and project lead for the implementation of the new system.

The new system blends features from the existing system, including a traditional defined-benefit annuity, with new benefits, including automatic and matching Thrift Savings Plan contributions, as well as an incentive payment at the mid-career point, Corso said, in an interview with DoD News.

The goal of the blended system, Corso said, is to provide benefits to a wider swath of members as compared to the current system.

The mandatory opt-in training is available on the common-access-card-enabled Joint Knowledge Online website, and through Military OneSource, he explained. The training through Military OneSource does not require a CAC, so it is convenient for troops.

*(See full article at [www.hawaiiarmyweekly.com/2017/02/15/troops-to-be-trained-on-retirement-changes/](http://www.hawaiiarmyweekly.com/2017/02/15/troops-to-be-trained-on-retirement-changes/).)*

# Free tax software, spt. available for military, families

**LISA FERDINANDO**  
DoD News, Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON — With the tax season upon us, service members and their families can access free tax-filing software and consultations to help them navigate the task of submitting their annual taxes.

Military members and their families can visit the Military OneSource website for the no-cost “MilTax” software, explained Erika Slaton, a program analyst with Military OneSource.

The Defense Department recognizes military members and their families have unique filing situations with deployments, relocations and various deductions and credits, she said.

The MilTax software, previously known as “Military OneSource Tax Services,” was created with the military situation in mind, Slaton said.

**Expert tax consultants ready to help**

Tax consultants are available via phone through Military OneSource, Slaton said.

In-person tax filing assistance can be accessed at military installations at a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance location.

The tax consultants can inform eligible users about the unique tax benefits available to service members and their families, Slaton said.

Tax laws change each year, Slaton pointed out, adding MilTax consultants are experts on the nuances of the law and can help users get the tax credits they earned and deserve.

“That’s why it’s such a great program because it is a program that is specifically designed for those unique military tax situations,” she said.

**Confidential, secure resources**

MilTax is confidential and secure, Slaton said. The online filing program allows users to submit a federal return and up to three state tax returns, she said.

Those eligible for MilTax include members of the Air Force, Army, Navy, Marines and National Guard.

*(See full article at [www.hawaiiarmyweekly.com/2017/02/15/free-tax-software-support-available-for-military-families/](http://www.hawaiiarmyweekly.com/2017/02/15/free-tax-software-support-available-for-military-families/).)*

**IRS Myths**  
See p. A-8 to read the truth about IRS myths.

**Military OneSource Analyst**  
Military members and their families can visit the Military OneSource website or call 1-800-342-9647 for the no-cost “MilTax” software. Visit these sites:  
• <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9351y2wfkpA>.  
• <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gQJjzVZlIvI>.  
• [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QG--A\\_sRZAo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QG--A_sRZAo)

## Voices of Ohana

Presidents Day is Monday. We wondered, Which president do you admire, and why?  
3rd Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs, 25th Infantry Division

**1st Lt. Jamieray Abad**  
Medical support operations  
325th Bde. Support Bn., 3rd BCT

“President Obama because of the love for his wife, Michelle.”

**Pfc. Alexander Glinn**  
Intelligence analyst,  
3rd Squadron, 4th Cav. Regt., 3rd BCT

“President Reagan because he came from non-politics to become a governor to president. People had the confidence he would do the right thing.”

**Sgt. Fabian Hightower**  
Combat engineer,  
29th BEB, 3rd BCT

“President Abraham Lincoln is my most admired president because he ended slavery.”

**Sgt. Trentorius Jimerson**  
Horizontal construction engineer  
29th BEB, 3rd BCT

“President Teddy Roosevelt because when he went on a hunt to hunt bears, he didn’t shoot a bear cub. Now, we have the Teddy bear, which my sister loves.”

**Sgt. Dylan Knight**  
Wheeled vehicle mechanic, 325th Bde. Support Bn., 3rd BCT

“President Ronald Reagan for his love of country and the American people.”



Story and photo by  
**STAFF SGT. ARMANDO R. LIMON**  
 3rd Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs  
 25th Infantry Division

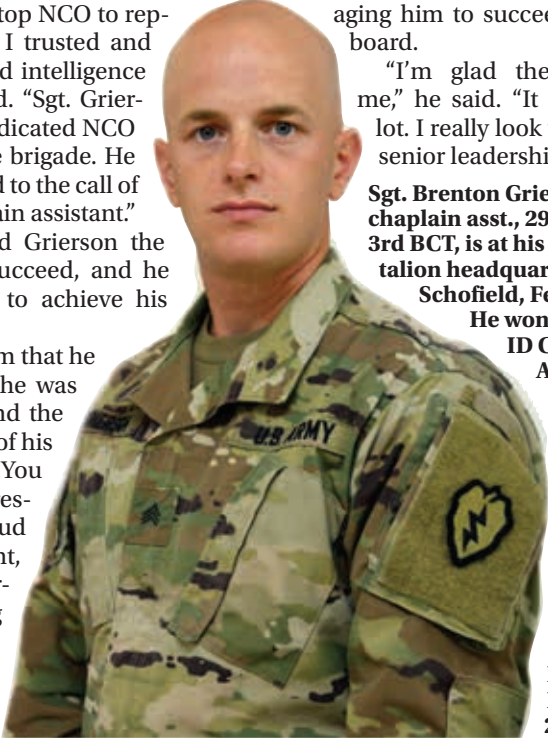
Grierson competed against a half-dozen NCOs across the division to advance to the U.S. Army Pacific (USARPAC) Chaplain Assistant NCO of the Year Competition, which will be held on March 28.

"It's pretty much like a promotion board," he said. "So the things that I would practice on would be the typical things ... stand in front of a mirror and get used to talking and quizzing yourself in front of people again. I had my wife quiz me when

Staff Sgt. Midline Beauvais, brigade chaplain assistant, Headquarters and Headquarters, 3rd BCT, was confident in

For Grierson, he was thankful and humbled for the opportunity of

**He won the 25th ID Chaplain Assistant NCO of the Year Competition, Jan. 26 and moves on to USARPAC, March 28.**



**MAJ. KEVIN IKE**  
8th Theater Sustainment Command  
Public Affairs

Ensuring the fleet can communicate with the command in any environment



Photo by Sgt. Jennifer Osborn, 311th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)  
Reserve Spc. Anthony Lockey, signal support systems specialist, 338th Harbormaster Operations Detachment, Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia, monitors and maintains equipment during training in Alameda, California, in August 2015.

“Communication at sea is a matter of

life or death. It is crucial for any vessel to establish appropriate communication channels with other vessels in addition to traffic and harbor control," said Chief

(See the full article at [www.hawaiiarmyweekly.com/2017/02/15/8th-tsc-supports-communications-at-sea/](http://www.hawaiiarmyweekly.com/2017/02/15/8th-tsc-supports-communications-at-sea/).)

**1ST LT. EMILY KLINKENBORG**  
311th Signal Command (Theater)  
Public Affairs

“The Unified Extensible Firmware Interface (UEFI) software is a replacement

Disk Size - 20GB free space available for the Windows 10 Operating Sys-



The Army's Computer Hardware Enterprise Software and Solutions (CHESS) program will only sell computers that are

"The timeline is a moving goal post," said Boeck. "There are dependencies we are working on our end to ensure customers and their workstations remain compliant on the network and have developed a comprehensive Unit Deployment Plan to ensure mission accomplishment with zero vulnerabilities."

**Transition to Windows 10**  
Visit the CIO/G-6 website to learn more about the Windows 10 transition: <http://ciog6.army.mil/Windows10Transition/tabid/255/Default.aspx>





# U.S., Japanese forces strengthening security

**MAJ. JAMES COMPTON**

94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command  
JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICK-AM — Within the Pacific theater of operations, the U.S. military works with many nations to help provide regional stability and security.

One example of this is the work between the Japanese Self Defense Forces and U.S. Pacific Command (PACOM) over the last year.

This cooperation has helped reinforce security in the region as the combined forces develop an integrated air and missile defense (IAMD) network, as well as strengthen the U.S. partnership with Japan.

As the threat of hostile ballistic missile activity in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region has grown, the U.S. and Japan have been working closely together to increase their ability to detect and counter missiles threatening friendly assets.

The Japanese Air Defense Command (JADC), in conjunction with units subordinate to PACOM, U.S. Pacific Air Forces (PACAF), U.S. Pacific Fleet (USPACFLT), and U.S. Army-Pacific (USARPAC), have been developing the means to synchronize ballistic missile defense (BMD) operations.

These actions have included exercises,



Courtesy photo

**U.S. and Japan have focused on developing means to coordinate between operation and tactical command and control agencies, early warning radars, Patriot units and Aegis ships. Pictured is a U.S. Patriot battery.**

synchronization of operations on and around Japan, and developing multiple means of communication between the combined forces to increase situational awareness for both nations.

By synchronizing their missile defense planning and operations, the U.S. and Japan are working towards achieving a

continual early warning and defense capability. This synchronization optimizes the ability to intercept hostile ballistic missiles.

Planners have focused on developing tactics, techniques and procedures (TTPs) that both nations’ forces can utilize in the event of increased ballistic

missile activity.

These TTPs include coordination between operational and tactical command and control (C2) agencies, early warning radars, Patriot units and AEGIS ships to ensure the timely engagement of hostile missiles.

“Every year, we conduct a series of IAMD exercises with our Japanese counterparts, further refining and improving interoperability and our TTPs,” said Navy Cmdr. Foster Righter, Senior Air Defense Officer, 613th Air and Space Operations Center (AOC).

To accomplish these plans and operations, numerous members from all branches of both nations’ militaries have contributed their expertise.

Experts in command and control, early warning radars, Naval BMD operations, and ground-based air defense systems, such as Patriot, have continuously worked to refine and improve how the two nations can work together.

Recently, the two nations have increased the amount of real-world operations conducted together, actively practicing the TTPs and interoperability that have been refined through exercises.

*(See full article at <http://www.hawaiiarmyweekly.com/2017/02/15/u-s-japanese-forces-strengthening-security/>.)*

## Sea Dragon 6 talks about PACOM integrated air, missile defense

**MAJ. TROY FREY**

94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command  
Public Affairs

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICK-AM — The commander for the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command – Brig. Gen. Sean A. Gainey – shared his insights on integrated air and missile defense opportunities and initiatives in the Pacific during a panel discussion for the Association of the United States Army’s Institute of Land Warfare (ILW), Feb. 7, in Arlington, Virginia.

The theme for the AUSA symposium, which focused on Army air and missile defense, was “Army AMD: Protecting the Force and Achieving Strategic Flexibility in a Multi-Domain Environment.”

The symposium provided an opportunity for senior leaders from both industry and the military to interact and share their thoughts on the future of the Army’s



Photo courtesy of Missile Defense Agency

**The first of two Terminal High Altitude Area Defense interceptors, or THAADs, is launched during a successful intercept test.**

role in integrated air missile defense, or IAMD.

“We currently operate in a complex multi-domain environment characterized by interdependence on space, cyber

space, land, air and maritime operations,” stated Lt. Gen. James H. Dickinson, commander, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, during his opening remarks.

“The 94th AAMDC continues to work with partners in the U.S. PACOM (Pacific Command), U.S. Northern Command and the U.S. Strategic Command to review and improve our capabilities in the U.S. PACOM area of responsibility,” he explained.

The U.S. Army-Pacific commander, Gen. Robert B. Brown, recently stated in an interview on cross-domain capabilities that one of his goals is “a multi-domain battle task force that can provide ballistic missile defense, short-range air defense, cyber (and) can be mobile and protect itself.”

The 94th AAMDC plays an important role when discussing the multi-domain battle and the Pacific region.

*(See the full article at <http://www.hawaiiarmyweekly.com/2017/02/15/sea-dragon-6-talks-pacom-iamd-oppsinitatives-at-ausa/>.)*



# Lt. Gen. explains Army’s new talent management system

**ARPI DILANIAN AND  
TAIWO AKOWOWO**  
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — For the first time, the Army will use a talent management process that integrates the personnel records of active Army, Army Reserve and Army National Guard Soldiers into one system.

In this Question & Answer article, Lt. Gen. James C. McConville, the Army deputy chief of staff, G-1, shares his insights into the service’s new talent management program. He explains how it will change the Army and improve readiness.

***Q: Can you describe the Army’s new talent management program?***

A: The Army’s most important weapon is its people. Where the other services may man equipment, what we do is equip the Soldiers, the women and men who are the Army. That’s where talent management comes into play.

What we are doing is moving the Army from an industrial age personnel management system to a 21st century talent management system. This will allow us to manage the knowledge, skills and behaviors of all of our Soldiers in both the active and reserve components so that we can get the right Soldier in the right job at the right time.



Photo by U.S. Army  
**Lt. Gen. James C. McConville, the Army deputy chief of staff, G-1, answers questions about talent management.**

***Q: How will the new talent management program work?***

A: We will have a new integrated personnel and pay system. For the first time in the history of the Army, we will have active, Reserve and National Guard Soldiers in one personnel system. This gives us visibility over the entire force.

In the National Guard and Reserve, we have Soldiers with tremendous talents learned from their civilian jobs that we may not see when we manage them by rank and military occupational specialty. They may run a construction company on the side, they may be a design engineer or they may have skill sets in technology – and we will now be able to see that.

We will be able to describe all lower enlisted Soldiers, noncommissioned officers and officers beyond their basic branches. We will be able to develop a profile of their knowledge, skills and behaviors; ... we will define them with more variables than we do now, which is basically two variables – rank and military occupational specialty.

We will be able to define Soldiers by multiple variables: the countries they have visited, the language skills they have, if they are airborne or air assault qualified, how many combat deployments they have, how many flying hours



Photo by Sgt. John Carkeet IV  
**SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Army Reserve Soldiers learn how to file police reports in the Army Law Enforcement Reporting and Tracking System in May 2016.**

they have and in which types of aircraft, and their certifications and hobbies. We will have a much better idea of what talents a Soldier can contribute.

We also want to know what Soldiers want to do and where they want to go. If we can match these desires and have them do the things they are passionate about where they want to do them, we think we will be a much better Army going forward. We are working very aggressively to implement these initiatives, and we think they will fundamentally change the way that the Army operates.

***Q: Does all of this fit with the chief of staff of the Army’s No. 1 priority of readiness?***

A: Absolutely. Readiness is defined by four factors: manning, equipping, training and leader development. The talent management initiative really focuses on improving the Army’s manning and leader development.

***Q: Is the issue of non-deployable personnel affecting talent management?***

A: We have fewer Soldiers in the Army, so every single Soldier has to be able to get on the field and play their position, both at home and away. If Soldiers cannot deploy, then we need to take a hard look at their ability to stay in the Army.

If there are Soldiers with deployment limitations who have certain talents that are critical to the mission, and they can contribute in non-deployable ways, we need to consider that. But as a general rule, as we go forward, Soldiers will have to be able to deploy for the away games because that is what the Army does.

***Q: Will you be changing broadening assignments for officers?***

A: Some people think broadening assignments are just going to graduate school. It is much more than that. We have gone to three categories of broadening assignments.

The first is tactical broadening. These assignments are for those Soldiers who want to excel at tactical assignments outside of their area, (such as) going to a Ranger battalion, going to the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment or going to a special mission unit.

The second is institutional broadening. These Soldiers become trainers at the combat training centers, they become small-group instructors, they become recruiters, or they teach ROTC. We have tremendous opportunities for Soldiers to serve in the institutional Army.

The third category is scholastic broad-

ening. Here we will send Soldiers to top-tier graduate schools, or they will be Joint Chiefs of Staff or congressional fellows or instructors at the U.S. Military Academy.

***Q: You spent many years as an aviator. How did you manage talent?***

A: I would spend a lot of time with the Soldiers who I rated and senior rated. I would begin the conversation by asking, “What do you want to do in the future?” And once you start to have that conversation, you can determine, first of all, if they want to stay in the Army. That is a good question to start with. And if they do not want to stay in the Army, find out what they want to do in the civilian world and help them get ready for civilian life.

If they said they wanted to stay in the military, I would ask, “Where do you see yourself in 10, 15 or 20 years? Do you want to be a battalion commander? Do you want to be a sergeant major?” Once you know that, then you can start developing a path with them to achieve their objectives.

Only 10 percent of enlisted Soldiers stay for 20 years to retire, and only 30 percent of officers stay for 20 years to retire. So it is very important that we identify the best Soldiers, noncommissioned officers and officers and manage their talent appropriately.

***Q: Will the Army’s recruiting processes change?***

A: We are looking at putting better screening measures in place to ensure we get the quality Soldiers we need for the future. We are getting ready to put forward the occupational physical assessment test, which is a physical test on a recruit’s potential.

We know the attributes that we want in Soldiers as we go forward. We know that we want resilient and fit Soldiers of character. What we are trying to do is put in place screening tests and assessments with more fidelity that will help identify those recruits that have the potential to be high-quality Soldiers.

We also want to ensure Soldiers have

the character needed to serve in the Army. This is very important. The No. 1 reason Soldiers do not complete their first term is misconduct, and that comes down to character. No. 2 is alcohol and drug abuse, and that’s either resilience or character. And No. 3, 4, 5 and 6 are related to physical and mental illnesses or disabilities. So we want to screen for all of these very important factors up front.

***Q: How are Soldiers doing when they leave the Army?***

A: As Soldiers leave, we give them two missions: hire and inspire. What we mean by hire is we want them to go into the civilian world, live the American dream, take advantage of the GI Bill benefits, get a great job, raise their families, then get to a point where they are hiring veterans just like them.

And when they have the opportunity, we want them to inspire young men and women to come into the military and serve just like they did. We want to give young men and women the opportunity to do one of the most important things they will do in their lives: serve their country.

Right now, we are pretty happy – not satisfied, but happy – that the unemployment rate for our veterans is lower than the national unemployment rate, which is at about 5 percent. That is pretty amazing. We would like more Soldiers to use their educational benefits; only 30 percent are using the GI Bill. We want more to take advantage, so they can better themselves.

***Q: What one tip would you give to a new Soldier?***

A: The most important thing is to be willing to learn. The Army expects you to come in physically fit and with integrity, and that allows you to perform those tasks you need to do. Everything else we will teach you.



Photo by Sgt. Ian Morales, 25th Infantry Division Public Affairs  
**SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — 2nd Lt. Jeremy Dettmer learns how to scale an obstacle in a tri-tower challenge in 2016.**



# IRS responds to myths surrounding refunds

**INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE**  
News Release

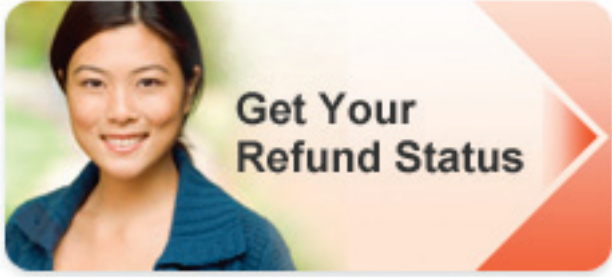
WASHINGTON — As millions of people begin filing their tax returns, the IRS is taking the time to clear up misunderstandings regarding refunds.

**Myth 1: All refunds are delayed.**  
While more than 90 percent of federal tax refunds are issued in the normal timeframe – less than 21 days – it is true some refunds may be delayed. But not all of them.

Recent legislation requires the IRS to hold refunds for tax returns claiming the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) or the Additional Child Tax Credit (ACTC) until mid-February. Other returns may require additional review for a variety of reasons and take longer.

For example, the IRS, along with its partners in the states’ and the nation’s tax industry, continue to strengthen security reviews to protect against identity theft and refund fraud.

**Myth 2: Calling the IRS or a tax professional will provide a better date.**  
Many people think that talking to the IRS or calling their tax professional is the best way to find out when they will



get their refund. In reality, the best way to check the status of a refund is online through the “Where’s My Refund?” tool at IRS.gov or via the IRS2Go mobile app. It has the same information available to IRS telephone assistors.

**Myth 3: Order a tax transcript is a “secret way” to get a refund date.**  
Ordering a tax transcript will not help taxpayers find out when they will get their refund. The information on a transcript does not necessarily reflect the amount or timing of a refund.

While taxpayers can use a transcript to validate past income and tax filing status for mortgage, student and small-business loan applications, and to help with tax preparation, they should use “Where’s My Refund?” to check the status of their refund.

**Myth 4: “Where’s My Refund?” must be wrong; there’s no deposit date.**  
“Where’s My Refund?” will be updated with projected deposit dates for early EITC and ACTC refund filers a few days after Feb. 15. Taxpayers claiming EITC or ACTC will not see a refund date on “Where’s My Refund?” or through their software package until then.

The IRS, tax preparers and tax software will not have additional information on refund dates. The IRS cautions taxpayers that these refunds likely will not start arriving in bank accounts or on debit cards until the week of Feb. 27 – if there are no processing issues with the tax return and the taxpayer chose direct deposit.

**Myth 5: Delayed refunds for those claiming EITC and/or ACTC were delivered on Feb. 15.**  
By law, the IRS cannot issue refunds before Feb. 15 for any tax return claiming the EITC or ACTC. The IRS must hold the entire refund, not just the part related to the EITC or ACTC. The IRS began releasing those refunds on Feb. 15. They won’t

likely arrive in bank accounts or on debit cards until the week of Feb. 27.

**More Information**  
“Where’s My Refund?” can be checked within 24 hours after the IRS has received an e-filed return or four weeks after receipt of a mailed paper return. “Where’s My Refund?” has a tracker that displays progress through three stages:

- 1) Return Received.
- 2) Refund Approved.
- 3) Refund Sent.

Users who access “Where’s My Refund?” must have information from their current, pending tax return to access their refund information.

The IRS continues to strongly encourage the use of e-file and direct deposit as the fastest and safest way to file an accurate return and receive a tax refund. More than four out of five tax returns are expected to be filed electronically, with a similar proportion of refunds issued through direct deposit.

**Help for Taxpayers**  
Taxpayers have options to get help filing and preparing their tax return. They may also be eligible to receive help from a community volunteer. Go to IRS.gov and click on the “Filing” tab for details.



**20 / Monday**  
**Mass Warning Notification System (MWNS)** — Do not be alarmed, but tests will be conducted periodically from Feb. 20 to 24, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 3 p.m., on U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii’s outside giant voice loudspeakers, on indoor building speakers, and on telephone and computer pop-up alert systems. These tests will ensure the MWNS is fully operational.

All Army installations in Hawaii — Schofield, Wheeler, Helemano, East Range, Fort Shafter, the Flats, Tripler, Aliamanu, DeRussy, and Pohakuloa — may hear “Exercise” announcements.

Again, these are a test.

**City Schedule** — The City and County of Honolulu offices will be closed Monday, Feb. 20, in observance of Presidents Day, a federal holiday.

Ambulance, fire, life-guard, medical examiner and police services are available.

TheBus will operate on a Saturday schedule. For route and schedule information, go to [www.thebus.org](http://www.thebus.org).

Refuse will be collected and transfer stations, convenience centers, H-POWER and the Waimanalo Gulch Sanitary Landfill will be open.

Parks, municipal golf

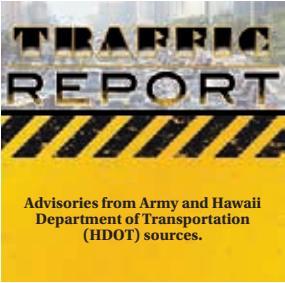
courses, botanical gardens and the Honolulu Zoo will be open.

The Neal Blaisdell Center box office will be open for the Michael Carbonaro event only. For more details, go to [www.blaisdellcenter.com](http://www.blaisdellcenter.com).

The People’s Open Markets will not be held. All Satellite City Halls and Driver Licensing Centers will be closed.

The following traffic and parking regulations will be in effect:

- On-street parking will be free, except for the meters on Kalakaua Avenue along Queen Kapi’olani Park and metered parking lots.
- Traffic lanes will not be coned for contraflow.



**25 / Saturday**  
**TAMC Outage** — A scheduled power outage will affect all of Tripler Army Medical Center (except the Main Clinic) and the VA and E Wing, Feb. 25, from 7:30 to 11:30 a.m.

This listing may not be all inclusive, and the outage may require more time depending on field conditions. It supports a substation renovation.

**Krukowski Road** — Tripler Army Medical Center will experience a complete road closure at Krukowski Road, near Bldg. 161, for a crane lift. The small portion of this road will be restricted from public access on Saturday, Feb. 25, from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. Note, trucks carrying large loads may be accessing the Jarred White/Krukowski Loop throughout the morning.

**March 11 / Saturday**  
**Schofield Outage** — Buildings 689 and 690, and the ATM on Schofield have a scheduled power outage from 8 a.m. to noon on March 11.



# Intrepid African-Americans broke barriers

COMPILED BY CARRIE MCLEROY  
Army News Service

Throughout the nation’s history, African-Americans have served in uniform with honor and distinction during times of war and peace.

As a result of their sacrifices and intrepid spirits, today’s highly capable and mission-ready Army leverages the strength of a diverse, all-volunteer force that includes more than 103,000 African-American Soldiers.

In recognition of African-American History Month, here’s a look back at those brave Soldiers who broke barriers, saved lives and paved the way for today’s force.

**James Armistead Lafayette**  
Born into slavery, Lafayette served on behalf of the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War as a double agent. The trust he earned from British Gen. Charles Cornwallis and Benedict Arnold allowed him to gain access and pass information that would lead to an American victory at the Battle of Yorktown.

Despite his bravery in service, as a slave-spy, he wasn’t eligible for emancipation under the Act of 1783 for slave-Soldiers. However, with the help of the Marquis de Lafayette, who was his commander during the war, he petitioned for his freedom, which was granted in 1787.

**Sgt. William Carney**  
After being shot in the thigh during the



Courtesy photo  
Of the 21 Americans who earned the Medal of Honor for their actions during the Vietnam War, 16 were Soldiers and 10 would make the ultimate sacrifice.



Photo courtesy of U.S. Army

**The Korean War was both the last armed conflict to see segregated units, and the first since the Revolutionary War to see African-American and white Soldiers fighting side by side in the same units.**

assault on Fort Wagner, South Carolina, July 18, 1863, Sgt. Carney crawled uphill on his knees bearing the Union flag, inspiring his fellow Soldiers to follow and never allowing the flag to touch the ground.

Although severely wounded, Carney would survive the war and finally receive the Medal of Honor, May 23, 1900. While he wasn’t the first African-American to receive the medal (Robert Blake, a Sailor,

was presented the medal in 1864), his actions were the earliest to merit the nation’s highest military medal for valor.

By the end of the Civil War, about 180,000 African-American men had served in the U.S. Army – 10 percent of the total Union fighting force. About 90,000 of them were former slaves from the Confederate states. Forty thousand African-American Soldiers died in the war: 10,000 in battle and 30,000 from illness or infection.

**Cathay Williams**  
Williams was the first African-American woman to enlist in the U.S. Army, and the only one documented to serve posing as a man. She enlisted under the pseudonym William Cathay in 1866 and was given a medical discharge in 1868.

**Col. Charles Young**  
Col. Young was the third African-American to graduate and receive a commission as a second lieutenant from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1889. He was the last to do so until Benjamin O. Davis Jr. in 1936, and the first to advance to the rank of colonel in the regular Army.

In addition to assignments with the 9th and 10th Cavalry as a platoon

leader and troop commander, Young commanded an all-black squadron of volunteer cavalry during the Spanish-American War, and 2nd Squadron of the 10th U.S. Cavalry during the Mexican Expedition of 1916-17. After his promotion to colonel, he commanded Camp Grant, where he supervised the training of African-American recruits during World War I.

In the course of his distinguished career, he also served as a park superintendent when the Army administered national parks, a professor of military science at Wilberforce University in Ohio, and a military attaché at different times to Haiti, and twice to Liberia.

He passed away of natural causes at Legos, Nigeria, in 1923. After his remains were repatriated to the United States, he was buried with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery.

**The Harlem Hellfighters**  
The 369th Infantry Regiment, “The Harlem Hellfighters,” was the first African-American regiment to serve with the American Expeditionary Forces during World War I. The regiment served on the front lines for 191 days, longer than any other American unit in the war, and was the first unit to cross the Rhine into Germany. In all that time, the unit never lost a prisoner or gave up any ground it captured.

(See full article at [www.hawaiiarmyweekly.com/2017/02/15/intrepid-african-americans-broke-barriers/](http://www.hawaiiarmyweekly.com/2017/02/15/intrepid-african-americans-broke-barriers/).)



Courtesy photo  
In 1866, Cathay Williams became the first African-American woman to enlist in the U.S. Army. She posed as a man, enlisting under the pseudonym William Cathay.





A torrential rainstorm didn't deter competitors from tromping through the Nu'upia Ponds during the 2017 Swamp Romp, Saturday, at MCBH, K-Bay. In fact, some participants said the weather added to the fun.

# Swamp Romp competitors weather downpours, mud

Story and photos by  
**KAREN A. IWAMOTO**  
Staff Writer

MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII, Kaneohe Bay — What could make Hawaii's longest-running mud race, a 3.5-mile slog through knee-deep marsh water, more challenging? Try a torrential rainstorm that caused an island-wide flash flood warning.

Add to that the early morning closure of the Kaneohe-bound lanes of the H-3 for routine maintenance, and many of the estimated 700 registered participants of the 2017 Swamp Romp at K-Bay on Saturday had already wrangled through their first set of obstacles before they even reached the course.

**Course management**  
As in previous years, the Marines' Combat Logistics Battalion 3 designed the course, and individual runners and teams of up to six gathered at Boondocker Training Area at 7 a.m.

From there, they took off down dirt paths that led them through the Nu'upia Ponds, where the mud sucked off shoes and sent participants slipping and sliding over slick inclines. Then it was over a stretch of hurdles that tested already tired legs, and then back into the swamps.

For a team to officially finish, at least five members had to make it to the finish line. Individuals only had to look out for themselves, but this also meant they couldn't necessarily count on help from others along the way.

This year was the 23rd anniversary of the muddy endurance test.

David Crooke of 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Inf. Division, who was competing in the Swamp Romp for the first time, said the downpour made the race more fun for him even as the churning mud increased the challenge.

"Train your legs," he said, when asked what advice he'd give to others. "It's not really upper body strength. It's all lower body strength."

He ran with several fellow Soldiers, including Katelyn Ventura, who said she also had fun despite – or perhaps because of – the weather.

"I thought it was awesome," she said. "It was really well put together. I gotta give kudos to the Marines for putting this on."

It was the second year in a row that Luis Berrios, an Army employee at U.S. Pacific Command, who is retiring in May, completed the course.

"This year was more competition," he said. "More people seemed to be pushing themselves to the limits."

## Upcoming Schofield Spartan Race

Those who enjoy pushing themselves physically through dirty race courses that present challenging obstacles can sign up now for the 2018 Spartan Race on Schofield Barracks.

The Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation needs to secure 2,500 registrations by April 30, 2017, to guarantee that the race will happen. Those who sign up before that date won't be charged if FMWR fails to meet the 2,500 registration minimum.

This 3-5-mile Spartan Race will take place on Jan. 27, 2018, and offers options for athletes of all levels.

First-timers and less seasoned athletes can sign up for the shorter version, while seasoned athletes and obstacle course veterans can opt for the longer version.

The course will feature 20-30 obstacles that will have competitors running through muddy water, jumping over fire, climbing hills and mountains, and crawling under barbed wire.

## Spartan Race Registration

For more information and to register online, visit <https://www.hawaii.armymwr.com> or <https://www.spartan.com/en/race/detail/3004/overview>.



Swamp Romp participants help each other navigate the muddy terrain, Saturday.

**Right — A participant waits for the rest of his team to catch up and fight through the challenging conditions.**

**Below — Participants churn through occasional knee-high level mud.**





## Briefs

17 / Friday

**'70s & '80s Soul Train Throw Back Party** — From 7:30-11:30 p.m. at SB Tropics. Prizes go to the best man and woman costume and the best dancer. For patrons 18 years and older. Call 655-5698.

18 / Saturday

**Family Nite** — Learn to paint a picture on a 12-by-16 inch stretched canvas without restrictions from 6-8 p.m. at the SB Arts & Crafts Center. Cost is \$25, and the project can be shared with family members.  
Additional canvases are available at an extra cost. All supplies are included. An adult must accompany children 12 years old and younger. Call 655-4202.

**CPR/AED Certification** — Learn to perform CPR and use an Automated External Defibrillator at SB Richardson Pool at 10 a.m., \$70 per person. Call 655-9630.

**Daddy Boot Camp** — Class for first-time/expecting fathers at SB ACS from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Dads can ask questions and learn practical skills for taking care of mom and baby. Call 655-4227.

20 / Monday

**Presidents Day** — All public schools will be closed.

21 / Tuesday

**AFTB Level K: "Military Knowledge"** — Two-day class from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at SB NCO Academy. Training focuses on military and Army programs, Army acronyms, community resources, and personal and family preparedness. Call 655-4227.

**Leader Training** — Held 10 a.m.-noon at SB Nehelani Conference & Banquet Center. Learn about the Soldier/family readiness group (FRG) and how to effectively run the organization, as well as challenges FRGs face. Call 655-4227 for more information about Leader Training.

**Toon Time Matinee** — For caregivers and their children, ages 0-3 (older siblings welcome). Join us for a free movie, fun and social interaction at SB ACS from 10 a.m.-noon. Call 655-4227.

**Anger & Conflict Solutions** — Pre-

CAMPAIGN KICK-OFF

## Army Emergency Relief (AER) Fundraising Campaign Kick-Off

February 24  
4:15 p.m.-4:50 p.m.  
Nehelani Conference and Banquet Center

Come support AER as we kick-off our annual campaign season. All funds go to support Soldiers and Families. Donate today by contacting your unit or Army Community Service. Campaign ends May 15.

For more information, call  
808-655-4ACS(4227).

Graphic courtesy of ACS

**SCHOFIELD BARRACKS** — Annual event held at SB Nehelani Conference & Banquet Center from 4:15-5 p.m. to raise awareness and solicit donations to support Soldiers and family members. Campaign runs March 1-May 15. Call 655-4227.

**Basic Investing & TSP** — The best time to start investing is now! Learn the basics of the Thrift Savings Plan and other investment options, including stocks, bonds and mutual funds at SB ACS from 10-11:30 a.m. Call 655-4227.

24 / Friday

**Acing the Interview** — Prepare to answer the tough interview questions and practice with a mock interview at SB ACS from 10-11 a.m. Call 655-4227.

**Parenting 101** — Take your parenting to the next level. Discover current “best practices” and learn tips and tools to assist you in reaching your parenting goals, noon-1 p.m. at the SB ACS. Call 655-4227 to register.

**Hawaiian Lunch Buffet** — From 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the SB Kolekole Bar & Grill and the FS Hale Ikena from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Each costs \$14.95. Call 655-4466 (SB) or 438-1974 (FS).

**Right Arm Night** — Enjoy a night of camaraderie at SB Nehelani Conference and Banquet Center starting at 6 p.m. Call 655-4466.

22 / Wednesday

**Play Mornings at ACS** — Meet other moms and dads, share information, parenting tips and give your infant/toddler a chance to interact with other children. At the SB ACS Office from 10-11 a.m. Call 655-4227.

**Teen Manga Club at Sgt. Yano Library** — Discuss popular manga titles and anime titles; this month’s theme will be “Accessories for Cosplay.” Begins at 3:30 p.m. Call 655-8002.

23 / Thursday

**FRG Key Contact Training** — Designed to provide training in key contact duties, communicating with family members, dispelling rumors, handling crisis calls, etc. It also shows key contacts how they fit into a successful FRG. From 5-7 p.m. at SB ACS. Call 655-4227.

**Leilehua Concert Series** — Enjoy live music from Mt. Keala from 6-8 p.m. at The Grill at Leilehua Golf Course. Call 655-4653.

25 / Saturday

**4.01K Race to Savings** — This family friendly 4K Run starts at SB Weyand Field at 7 a.m. Cost is \$10 through race morning. The first 250 to register will receive a free 401K Race to Savings tote bag. Register at any Army PFC. Call 655-8007.

**NOAA Whale Count** — Bring binoculars, sunscreen, chair, drink and snacks to SB Outdoor Recreation Center for this eye-opening adventure from 7 a.m.-12:30 p.m. for \$10 per person. Transportation provided by Outdoor Recreation. This program is open to children 8 years old and above. Note, this is a land-based activity, with some walking needed. Call 655-0143.

**Mardi Gras Party** — From 7:30 p.m. at SB Tropics Recreation Center. Enjoy live musical performances and authentic Louisiana cuisine. Call 655-5698.

27 / Monday

**Million-Dollar Soldier Refresher** — This training provides Soldiers with valuable financial tools. At SB ACS from 8:30-11:30 a.m. and 1-4 p.m. Topics include saving, credit, investing and big purchases. Call 655-4227 to register.

**Employment Orientation** — New to the island and looking for employment? This class at the SB ACS from 10-11:30 a.m. will orientate you to employment opportunities on Oahu. Learn about Spousal Preference and the Priority Placement Program for Spouses (PPP-S) seeking federal employment.  
Also offered is information on civilian sector opportunities, contractors, resume writing classes, career fairs and opportunities to further your career and education. Call 655-4227 to register.

**Stress Solutions** — Held from noon-1 p.m., this class identifies the causes of stress as well as how it affects our lives. Techniques, such as positive self-talk and how to not take things personally, are shared, along with a variety of relaxation techniques. Call SB ACS at 655-4227.

28 / Tuesday

**10 Steps to a Federal Job** — Held at SB ACS from 9 a.m.-noon. Walk through the steps to create an effective targeted federal resume and successfully manage the application process. To sign up, call 655-4227.

**Paint and Sip at Tropics** — Paint a picture on canvas at SB Tropics from 7-9 p.m. while sipping your beverage of choice for \$35.  
Class includes all painting supplies and instruction. Pre-registration is required. Call 655-5698.

Send announcements a week prior to publication to [community@hawaiiarmyweekly.com](mailto:community@hawaiiarmyweekly.com).

17 / Friday

**SB Tax Center** — The Tax Center is open for military and retirees. Hours of operation are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday at 10 a.m.-noon and 1-4 p.m.; Thursday, 1-4 p.m.; and Saturday, 10 a.m.-noon and 1-3 p.m., at Trailer 1, Grimes Street (across from Hamilton Field). Appointments are recommended; call 655-1040. Walk-ins permitted on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

18 / Saturday

**Hiking** — The Kolekole Walking-Hiking Trail on Schofield Barracks is open this weekend, Saturday and Sunday, from 5:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

20 / Monday

**Great Aloha Run** — Kaiser Permanente Great Aloha Run begins at 7 a.m. at Aloha Tower, and runs 8.15 miles through the historic Honolulu Harbor, down Nimitz Highway, Kamehameha Highway and into the Aloha Stadium. Awards ceremony and activities will begin at 8:30 a.m.,

REGISTER NOW

**SCHOFIELD BARRACKS** — The time is now to sign for the **Spartan Race** – coming in 2018 – at Schofield Barracks. We need a minimum of 2,500 reservations by April 30. See <https://www.spartan.com/en/race/detail/3004/overview>. Stay tuned to [www.facebook.com.usaghawaii/](https://www.facebook.com.usaghawaii/) for more exciting details.

featuring prizes, entertainment, high school team challenge and more. Proceeds go to multiple organizations. For more information about the GAR, visit [www.greataloharun.com](http://www.greataloharun.com).

23 / Thursday

**Wanderlust Oahu** — The fifth annual yoga lifestyle event returns to Turtle Bay Resort and features a variety of health and well-being activities. Visit [Wanderlust.com](http://Wanderlust.com) for more information.

24 / Friday

**Journey in Concert** — Tickets are still available for the Friday and Sunday, 7:30 p.m. shows, at the Blaisdell Arena with the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame band. Tickets range from \$65-\$155, and are available at [Bampproject.com](http://Bampproject.com) and Ticketmaster outlets.

25 / Saturday

**Leilehua Craft Fair** — Project Grad 2017 support event, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., features food vendors, silent auction and creative crafts at Leilehua H.S. Cafeteria. Leilehua High School is located at 1515 California Ave, Wahiawa.

26 / Sunday

**African-American History Month** — Windward Choral Society presents “Guide My Feet: A Celebration of African-American Gospel and Spirituals,” 5 p.m., St. John Vianney Parish, 920 Keolu Dr., Enchanted Lake, Kailua. Features artist Binti Bailey, and readings by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by Lisa Barnes. Parking and concert are free. No tickets are required.

SKIES: Schools of Knowledge, Inspiration, Exploration and Skills

TAMC: Tripler Army Medical Center

USAG-HI: U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii

USARPAC: U.S. Army-Pacific

WAAF: Wheeler Army Airfield

**Live By Night (R)**  
Friday Feb. 17, 7 p.m.

**A Monster Calls (PG-13)**  
Saturday Feb. 18, 4 p.m.

**Sleepless (R)**  
Saturday Feb. 18, 7 p.m.

**Assassin's Creed (PG-13)**  
Sunday Feb. 19, 4 p.m.

Closed Monday through Thursday.



# ‘Cacti’ a finalist for Military Spouse of the Year

Story and photo by  
**STAFF SGT. ARMANDO R. LIMON**  
3rd Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs  
25th Infantry Division

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Military spouses throughout the armed forces strive to support their families at home, pursue higher education, work and perform community service.

It isn’t every day that a spouse gets recognized for outstanding service throughout the military and local community.

Andrea Disque, spouse of Command Sgt. Maj. Brian Disque, senior enlisted adviser, 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry Regiment, “Cacti,” 3rd Brigade Combat Team, was nominated for *Military Spouse* magazine’s Military Spouse of the Year.

Disque, a native of Buffalo, New York, understood the military life; she had joined the Air Force right out of high school.

Her journey as a military spouse didn’t start until she met her husband at Waikiki in 1999 while stationed on Oahu. Her husband was a Soldier stationed here with the 21st Inf. Regt., “Gimlets,” 2nd Bde. Combat Team, 25th ID. She completed her enlistment, in May and married in August of the same year.

**Role model**

The Disque family moved back to Schofield Barracks in 2016, with Andrea



Andrea Disque places a box food donation in a container for a resident during Surfing the Nation’s “Feeding the Hungry” food distribution outreach in Wahiawa, Sept. 7, 2016.

becoming the Cacti family readiness group adviser.

“I volunteer time for ‘Feeding the Hungry’ in Wahiawa, with Surfing the Nations,” she said. “I recently took on a position for the Joint Spouses Conference that occurs every fall as part of their board, and I’m their web master and email chairperson.”

She is a graduate from the University of New England with a Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership

(Ed.D.), and serves as a professor teaching Critical Thinking for the University of Phoenix.

She said she also recently took a writing internship with The Borgen Project, which is a non-governmental organization dedicated to ending global hunger.

Nicole Darnell, married to Staff Sgt. Benjamin Darnell, assigned to the 2-35th Inf. Regt., nominated Disque for Military Spouse of the Year.

“Andrea truly excels as a military spouse,” Darnell said. “She is a role model for balancing education, work, family and volunteering, all while supporting the organization with meaningful and fun events.”

Disque said she was extremely honored to be nominated.

“I was so impressed with reading everybody else’s story ... it made me feel like it’s such an inclusive and amazing group of spouses,” Disque said. “One of the things I have been focusing on in the past few years is empowering military spouses to become better people.”

Attitude can make such a big difference in your experience as a military spouse.

Darnell said Disque always has a smile on her face when helping families.

“She understands families’ needs and always makes them feel welcome at events,” Darnell said “She also helps to uphold military tradition by organizing traditional get-togethers and ways to volunteer in the community.”

Disque’s positive attitude made a tremendous difference for the military spouses of Cacti.

“We need more people like Andrea who fully embrace the military life and provide a positive example of how to enjoy the community within the unit,” Darnell said.

# ‘Raiders’ delight, awe Wahiawa Career Day students

Story and photo by  
**STAFF SGT. ARMANDO R. LIMON**  
3rd Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs  
25th Infantry Division

WAHIAWA – Students listened in awe as Soldiers assigned to the 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, “Raiders,” 3rd Brigade Combat Team, described Army life during the Ka’ala Elementary School Career Day, Feb. 1.

A dozen Raiders from Schofield Barracks greeted several elementary classes from kindergarten to third grade.

“The purpose is to give the elementary school students here a sense of what we do on a day-to-day basis in a reconnaissance squadron,” said Staff Sgt. Tyler Robinson, a platoon sergeant assigned to Blackfoot Troop, 3-4th Cav. Regt. “We’re setting up some stations here, so the kids can go through and have a sense of what we’re doing in the Army.”

Blackfoot Troop brought a Long-Range Advanced Scout Surveillance System (LRAS3), a dismounted Improved Target Acquisition System (ITAS), a M120 mortar system, Humvees and personal equipment such as the Improved Outer Tactical Vest (IOTV)



Spc. Charles Moss, a cavalry scout assigned to 3-4th Cav. Regt., 3rd BCT, 25th ID, shows schoolchildren how the ITAS works at Ka’ala Elementary School in Wahiawa on Feb. 1.

and Advanced Combat Helmet (ACH), said Robinson.

The children were more than delighted to get hands-on experience with the Army equipment. They tried on the vests and helmets, while getting

a feel for the weight and size of the equipment.

Said 1st Lt. Colin Hauer, a signal officer assigned to 3-4th Cav. Regt., “We explained about general military life and being successful in the military, as well

as salary and benefits associated with the military.”

**Skills on display**

Hauer explained the Soldiers of Blackfoot Troop were able to “show off the skills to be successful in the military, as well as some of the cool technology program.”

The children showed amazement when they peered through the sights of the LRAS3 and ITAS systems. They were also amazed to hear that the systems could see body heat from a distance.

“For our community partnership, the kids interact with us and build trust and confidence with the U.S. military,” he said.

Shana Benz, a third grade teacher at Ka’ala Elementary, shared her classes’ experience.

“The students see the military more often in our neighborhood,” Benz said, “so it makes it more real for them.”

At the end of Career Day, the students of Ka’ala Elementary thanked the Soldiers and presented them with ti lei.

“I think it’s great that the military does (these) things with the kids and shares their knowledge,” Benz said.

# Army Natural Resources plays matchmaker to endangered plants

**KAYLA OVERTON**  
U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii Public Affairs

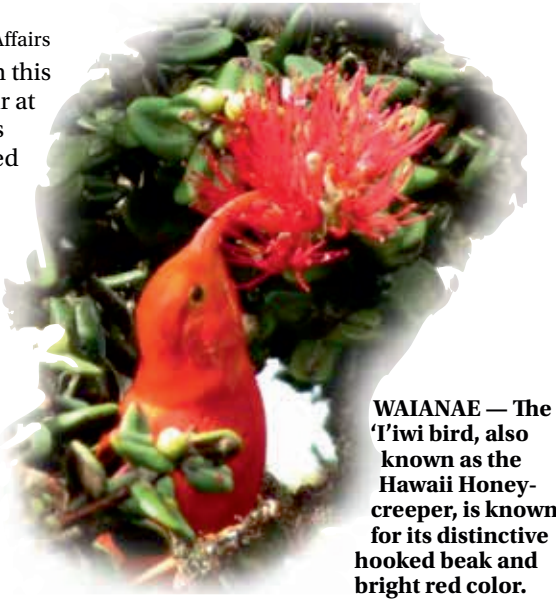
SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — On this Valentine’s Day, love was in the air at the U.S. Army’s Natural Resources Program, here, as biologists offered a matchmaking hand to Oahu’s endangered plants – literally.

Many threatened and endangered plants have been unlucky in love. They haven’t been able to find a perfect match and reproduce on their own.

Disease, habitat loss, predatory rodents and environmental change are just a few of the obstacles Hawaii’s special plants face.

**Pollinators decline**

The decline of many of the



WAIANAE — The ‘I’iwi bird, also known as the Hawaii Honeycreeper, is known for its distinctive hooked beak and bright red color.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF U.S. ARMY  
SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — A biologist with Army Natural Resources uses an eyebrow brush to hand pollinate a Hes-peromannia oahuensis.

plants’ original matchmakers – native bird pollinators – has also been a huge obstacle, according to Kapua Kawelo,

a biologist with U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii’s Oahu Natural Resources Program.

Kawelo and the Army’s Natural Resources Program work to ensure the survival of threatened and endangered species on Army installations and training areas in Hawaii.

“We do a lot of field studies and research, and we’ve found that our native plants just aren’t successful reproducing anymore. They need help,” Kawelo said.

One native mint plant in particular, the *Stenogyne kanehoana*, has been terribly unlucky in love. In fact, it practically went extinct in the wild and was almost lost forever, due in large part to the loss

See ENDANGERED B-4



# What can we learn from the flea?

**CHAPLAIN (CAPT.) PAUL SHIN**  
524th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion  
25th Sustainment Brigade,  
25th Infantry Division

As a kid, I grew up with dogs, and I remember encountering those little black critters that hide in the fur of our dogs called fleas.

There does not seem to be anything remarkable about fleas except their tenacity at being a nuisance. However, there is something fleas teach us.

Fleas can jump up to 100 times their height. When you put fleas in a jar container and close the lid, they will jump until they hit the lid. After 20 minutes, the fleas will stop hitting the lid and jump just short of the lid.

Even after you open the lid, the fleas will continue to jump just below where the lid was. Their experience of hitting the lid prevents them from reaching their potential to jump to freedom.

I like this story because it reminds me of how people often react to trauma and pain. Our experience often prevents us from overcoming our own limitations to reach the full potential of how God originally designed us, psychologically, physically and spiritually. Some of our limitations are real, but some are self-



Shin

we continue into the new year, let us not give in to being slaves to our self-imposed hurts and limitations.

I want to highlight one important theme that can help us overcome our self-imposed limitations: community.

A pastor once said that the best antidote to self-focused or narcissistic behavior is community. We live at a time when time and space is radically compressed.

Thirty years ago, cost and technology made it difficult to call long distance to another country. Now, technology has evolved to the point we are able to stay in touch with many people effortlessly.

At the same time, it means we are rarely fully present with our close friends and family. We may have many Facebook friends, but very few real relationships.

imposed, like the fleas in the jar. Have you ever hit your head so many times that you stopped trying? Have you gotten in the habit of limiting yourself in order to protect yourself? What if the lid is not there anymore? As



We get their words and images, but not in-person contact. This has created a culture of individualism and loneliness. I encourage you to evaluate your relationships and strive to belong to a community that breathes positivity and growth.

What community do you belong to that can speak life and healing into your life? Whether it is your local chapel or spiritual community, the sky is the limit. One thing is certain: We were created to thrive in community.

A weaker community can be built around a common interest like hobbies, sports or music. Stronger communities are built around deep beliefs and causes, or powerful common experiences common to our Army profession, such as going to battle and surviving together.

As hard as it is to build strong communities, we have tremendous resources. We have many challenges and obstacles, but there is no alternative.

God willing let us escape the flea circus and live beyond the limits of the imaginary lid.

each other, making pollination difficult, so we may collect pollen from a particular male plant and hand-pollinate a female plant miles away,” Kawelo said.

### Everlasting love – how to make it last

Finding a match is just part of the story. The next goal is raising offspring and keeping the family name going.

As “keiki” seeds are produced after hand-pollination, the Natural Resources staff collect them for safekeeping in the Army’s seed conservation laboratory on Schofield Barracks.

The seed lab is one of only four of its kind in Hawaii, and houses millions of potential offspring.

The lab’s climate-controlled refrigerators can replicate ideal lighting and temperature environments for the young keiki to grow. Other seeds are stored in vacuum-sealed pouches in case they’re needed down the road.

*(See the entire article online at <http://www.hawaiiarmyweekly.com/?p=26466&preview=true>.)*



**Hesperomannia oahuensis grows in the greenhouse.**

### Tools of the matchmaking trade

So how does one create plant love?

The true matchmaking begins when matchmakers (Army biologists) hand-pollinate plants in need. Army biologists use different tools like eyebrow brushes to delicately collect pollen from various types of plants in both the greenhouse and in the forest.

Love knows no bounds when Army biologists are involved in matchmaking.

“In certain plant species, male and female plants may be miles away from

# ENDANGERED: It’s a love story

CONTINUED FROM B-3

of its original pollinator, the ‘T’iwi, a Hawaiian honeycreeper bird.

“The ‘T’iwi bird has a distinct hooked beak that fits the blossom of the mint like a hand to a glove,” Kawelo said. “With those birds becoming fewer and fewer in number, the plants need a different hand.”

According to Kawelo, approximately 20 percent of the threatened and endangered plants the Army manages in Hawaii have lost their bird pollinators.

“We’re getting creative and giving these plants a hand because they can’t get it done on their own,” Kawelo added. “As part of our military training mission, we have a responsibility to ensure their survival.”



Additional religious services, children’s programs, educational services and contact information can be found at [www.garrison.hawaii.army.mil](http://www.garrison.hawaii.army.mil). Click on “Religious Support Office” under the “Directorates and Support Staff” menu.

- AMR: Aliamanu Chapel  
FD: Fort DeRussy Chapel  
HMR: Helemano Chapel  
MPC: Main Post Chapel, Schofield Barracks  
PH: Aloha Jewish Chapel, Pearl Harbor  
SC: Soldiers’ Chapel, Schofield Barracks  
TAMC: Tripler Army Medical Center Chapel  
WAAF: Wheeler Army Airfield Chapel

### Buddhist Services

- First Sunday, 1 p.m. at FD
- Last Wednesday, 6 p.m. at MPC

### Catholic Mass

- Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 11:45 a.m. at Soldiers’ Chapel
- Tuesday, 7 p.m. at AMR
- Wednesday 11:45 and 5 p.m. at MPC

- MPC
- Thursday, 9 a.m. at AMR
  - Saturday, 5 p.m. at WAAF
  - Sunday services:
    - 8:30 a.m. at AMR
    - 10:30 a.m. at MPC

### Gospel Worship

- Sunday, noon. at MPC
- Sunday, 12:30 p.m. at AMR
- Jewish Shabbat (Sabbath)
- Friday, 7:30 p.m. at PH (Call 473-3971)

### Protestant Worship

- Sunday Services
  - 9 a.m. at MPC
  - 9 a.m. at FD
  - 10 a.m. at HMR and WAAF
  - 10:30 a.m. at AMR
  - 11 a.m. at WAAF (Contemporary)

### Liturgical (Lutheran/Anglican)

- Sunday, 9:27 a.m.

at SC





# TAMC awards recognize the ‘Best of the Best’

KRISTI HAYASHIDA  
Tripler Army Medical Center

HONOLULU — Like any other health care facility, Tripler Army Medical Center, also known as TAMC, utilizes patient surveys to improve the quality of health care.

Recently, the Defense Health Agency constructed one survey for all Military Health Facilities with the intent of streamlining the process of tracking responses and encouraging patients to complete surveys. The resulting Joint Outpatient Experience Survey (JOES) is now the standardized customer service questionnaire used to evaluate patient satisfaction across all three military branches.

Patti E. Myers, chief of Customer Relations at TAMC, said the JOES are randomly sent to patients approximately 72 hours after an outpatient visit. The survey asks them about the care that they received from a specific appointment, about a specific provider’s thoroughness, about how the appointment was made, whether the patient experienced any difficulties with making an appointment and what the patient’s experience was like in general.

The Army “Best of the Best” report recognizes Military Health Facilities that derive high outpatient clinic satisfaction scores in JOES using one or more of six categories: Specialty Care Clinics, Primary Care Clinics, Specialty Care Clinic Providers, Primary Care Clinic Providers, Specialty Care Clerks and Primary Care Clerks and Receptionists.

TAMC and the U.S. Army Health Clinic-Schofield Barracks, also known as USAHC-SB, were recently recognized in the Patient Satisfaction Army “Best of the Best” report for five out of the six categories.

“Our staff truly believes in our mission of serving our patients and their families and we consistently look for ways to improve the patient experience,” said Col. Andrew M. Barr, TAMC commander. “That the dedicated staff of the TAMC ohana was recognized as the ‘Best of the Best’ in five out of six categories in outpatient services is a testament to our people and our mission,” he added.



Photo by Jim “Goose” Guzior, Tripler Army Medical Center  
**The TAMC chief of Gastroenterology, Maj. Mazer Ally (right), discusses an upcoming procedure with a service member. Ally received a perfect score in the Specialty Care Clinic, a provider’s category, in the latest JOES.**

**Clinic** scored 100 percent in the Specialty Care Clinics category.

•**Dr. Dean Britos** from Schofield Barracks Pediatrics and **Dr. Linda Tom** from TAMC Medical Care/Internal Medicine at TAMC received 100 percent satisfaction as Primary Care Clinic Providers.

•**Maj. Ally Mazer**, physician of TAMC Gastroenterology Clinic received a perfect score in the Specialty Care Clinic Providers category.

•**Family Practice Medicine at TAMC** was recognized for its high ratings as a Primary Care Clinic.

•**TAMC Family Practice Medicine** obtained an exponential score in the Primary Care Clerks and Receptionists category.

Patient participation in JOES is very important because TAMC’s No. 1 priority is improving patient safety, satisfaction and experience.

The JOES is used to continuously advance the quality of care, and patient participation can help TAMC improve its service.

“I am extremely proud of this organization and its outstanding people,” Barr said.

“We will continue our diligent efforts to constantly improve access to high-quality, safe health care and better patient experience,” he added, “through dedicated service to our patients and their families while ensuring the readiness of our medical force and our nation’s warriors.”

TAMC TIP



## Please wear a helmet!

A traumatic brain injury (TBI) is caused by a blow or jolt to the head, or a penetrating head injury that disrupts the normal function of the brain.

One way to prevent a TBI is to put on a helmet when doing the following tasks:

•Riding a bike, motorcycle, snowmobile, scooter or all-terrain vehicle.

•Playing a contact sport, such as football, ice hockey or boxing.

•Using in-line skates or riding a skateboard.

•Batting and running bases in baseball or softball.

•Riding a horse.

•Skiing or snowboarding.



Courtesy photo